

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 14141 030936Z
ACTION EAP-00

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO	LOG-00	COPY-01	ADS-00	INR-10	SS-00	OIC-02	CIAE-00
	EB-00	DODE-00	H-01	MSC-01	IO-19	NEA-06	NSCE-00
	NSAE-00	SSO-00	HA-09	L-03	TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-01
	FAAE-00	DOTE-00	OMB-01	INRE-00	OCS-06	CA-02	USSS-00
	USIE-00	FBIE-00	SP-02	SNP-01	C-01	PRS-01	DS-01
	DSE-00	SCT-02	P-02	T-01	/083 W		

-----211732 030952Z /11

O 030538Z DEC 87
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5625
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MANAMA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY RANGOON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 14141

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PTER, PREL, KS, JA, KN, BA
SUBJECT: FURTHER ROK REACTION TO SUSPECTED NORTH KOREAN
SABOTAGE OF KAL 858

REF: SEOUL 14082 (NOTAL)

1. (U) ROK MEDIA CONTINUED ON DECEMBER 3 TO PLAY UP
NORTH KOREAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE CRASH OF KAL 858, THE
WRECKAGE OF WHICH REPORTEDLY STILL HAS NOT BEEN LOCATED
(SEPTTEL). JAPANESE POLICE SOURCES WERE PROMINENTLY QUOTED
TO THE EFFECT THAT THE ATTEMPTED SUICIDE OF THE TWO
JAPANESE PASSPORT-HOLDERS IN BAHRAIN SUGGESTS THAT THEY
ARE NORTH KOREAN AGENTS RATHER THAN JAPANESE RADICALS.
HOWEVER, THEY WERE SAID TO BE UNABLE TO IDENTIFY THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SEOUL 14141 030936Z

COUPLE AND WERE WAITING FOR THE ARRIVAL OF THEIR
FINGERPRINTS FROM BAHRAIN TODAY, DECEMBER 3. ALTHOUGH
JAPANESE POLICE INDICATED THAT THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE TWO
PERSONS DO NOT MATCH, THE MEDIA HERE CONTINUED TO FOCUS ON

C17924134

CONFIDENTIAL

THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE DEAD SUSPECT WAS MIYAMOTO AKIRA, AN ETHNIC KOREAN RESIDENT OF JAPAN WHO WAS REVEALED YESTERDAY TO BE ON A POLICE WANTED LIST FOR ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN NORTH KOREAN ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES IN JAPAN. MIYAMOTO WAS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN IN KUALA LUMPUR DURING THE OCTOBER 1983 RANGOON BOMBING, AND TO HAVE VISITED SEOUL IN SEPTEMBER 1984.

UNCLASSIFIED

2. (C) SENIOR BLUE HOUSE POLITICAL SECRETARY LEE JIN WOO TOLD POLCOUNS ON DECEMBER 3 THAT THE ROKG IS CONCENTRATING AT PRESENT ON SECURING THE COOPERATION OF ALL GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED IN INVESTIGATING THE AFFAIR. HE SAID SEOUL IS WILLING TO LET BAHRAIN TAKE THE LEAD AND HAS NO PLANS TO REQUEST THE EXTRADITION OF "HACHIYA MAYUMI", THE WOMAN SUSPECT HOSPITALIZED IN MANAMA.

3. (C) COMMENT: CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE OF NORTH KOREAN INVOLVEMENT CONTINUES TO ACCUMULATE BUT THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE SUSPECTS AND THEIR LINKS TO PYONGYANG AND THE CRASH OF KAL 858 REMAIN LARGELY CONJECTURAL. THE ROKG SO FAR APPEARS TO BE TAKING AN APPROPRIATELY CAUTIOUS AND RESTRAINED APPROACH, EMPHASIZING THE PRIORITY OF ESTABLISHING THE FACTS. WE WILL REPORT SEPARATELY ON WHAT WE AND OUR ROKG CONTACTS SEE AS THE BROADER IMPLICATIONS OF THIS AFFAIR FOR SOUTH-NORTH RELATIONS AND ROK DOMESTIC POLITICS. LILLEY##

CONFIDENTIAL

NNNN

UNCLASSIFIED
CONFIDENTIAL